

## **YMCA Camp Pepin Leadership Camp Acknowledgement of Risks**

YMCA Camp Pepin takes every precaution to create safe trail experiences for our campers. However, these activities have risks, including certain travel, environmental, and out-of-doors risks that cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the activities. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of these activities could potentially also be causes of loss or damage to the participants' equipment, accidental injury, illness, or (in extreme cases) permanent trauma, disability, or death. Camp Pepin does not want to frighten participants or reduce their enthusiasm for these activities, but believes that it is important for them and for their parents or guardians to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the activities' inherent risks. The following describes some, but not all, of those risks:

- Leadership Camps may travel to rural settings. However, medical facilities and/or services are generally less than 20 minutes away.
- Participants may or will travel by 15-passenger vans, which undergo a thorough professional mechanical inspection prior to each summer camp season, and which undergo a written vehicular inspection prior to each excursion. Camp Pepin staff members participate in a driver training session that is specific to handling 15-passenger vans with trailers, and must demonstrate specific road skills and maneuvering competency before being added to the camp's vehicular insurance and being approved to drive a camp vehicle. All passengers are required to wear seatbelts any time their vehicle is in motion. Risks of vehicular travel may include: collision (resulting in injury or death), loss of personal items (due to theft or break-in), and mechanical breakdown.
- Participants may or will be involved in a service project that involves the use of non-mechanical hand tools. While precautions are taken to educate the participants in the proper use of these tools, and while appropriate safety gear will be provided, risks still may exist that could result in injury.
- When camping off-site, participants may or will travel by canoe or foot, and could encounter rugged, unpredictable terrain (including boulder fields, downed timber, rivers, rapids, eddies, steep slopes, and slippery rocks). Risks could include capsizing, drowning, falling, wounds, and other incidents associated with such travel.
- When camping off-site, meals are cooked over gas stoves and open fires. Water may require disinfection before use. Camping risks and hazards include, but are not limited to, burns, smoke inhalation, diarrhea, and sudden illness.
- When camping off-site, environmental risks and hazards include rapidly moving, deep, or cold water, insect bites or stings, tick bites that could potentially result in Lyme's Disease, snake bites, predatory animals, poisonous plants, falling and rolling rock, lightning, flash floods, and unpredictable forces of nature (including weather which may cause extreme conditions without warning). Possible risks include hypothermia, frostbite, sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration, wounds, drowning, trauma from falling objects, and conditions that may be mild, serious, or deadly.

In consideration of the services of the Red Wing Family YMCA and Camp Pepin, its employees, affiliates, and all other associated persons or entities, I understand and acknowledge the risks stated above. I also further acknowledge the potential for other risks to occur that may be unforeseen and unstated.

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_